

March/April 2006

Trendlines

Perspectives On Utah's Economy

**The Sweet
Smell of
Success**

**2005 Job
Vacancy
Study**

**Utah's
RED HOT
Job Market**

**The Outlook for
Utah Grads 2006**

A Publication of the Utah
Department of Workforce Services



When
Play Time
is Over



Get There!

careers^{utah.}
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contributors



Mark Knold is the senior economist for the Utah Department of Workforce Services. His role is to represent the Department on economic issues and to convey clearly and precisely the Department's economic information and unemployment statistics. Mark has worked for the Department for nearly 15 years and holds an M.S. and B.S. in economics from the University of Utah. He serves on committees that advise the governor, state economic councils, economic development agencies, and legislative committees.

Lecia Parks Langston is the western regional economist for the Department of Workforce Services, and lives in St. George. Lecia has been an economist with the state for more than 20 years. During that time, she was chief economist for the Department of Employment Security for six years, has served as a president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum, has staffed Governor Bangerter's Workforce 2000 Committee, and is a past advisor of the Governor's Economic Coordinating Committee. She is the author of several studies including *Hard at Work: Women in the Utah Labor Force*.



Michael Hanni is currently a regional economist for the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). He has responsibility for the seven counties comprising eastern Utah: Daggett, Duchesne, Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan, and Uintah. Michael earned a Bachelors of Science in economics and a Bachelors of Arts in political science at the University of Utah. He is currently finishing up a Masters of Arts in economics at the same institution. While Michael is a native of Texas, Utah has become his home. An avid hiker, he has been bewitched by the beautiful landscapes of eastern Utah.

Lisa Nicholson is a senior data analyst for the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) on the Occupational Employment Statistics program. A recent graduate of the University of Utah, she has a B.S. in Economics and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Statistics. Lisa also tutors University of Utah athletes, and worked at a home for people with disabilities before coming to DWS.



John T. Mathews has worked as an economist for the Department of Workforce Services for 30+ years. He has a B.S. and an M.S. in economics from the University of Utah. Mr. Mathews' primary areas of responsibility include serving as the north region economist, monitoring and reporting on the economies of Utah's six northern counties. He is also responsible for preparing the Department's industry employment projections; and helping prepare the occupational employment projections for Utah. Mr. Mathews is responsible for developing and updating the economic information presented in the DWS Internet site for the six northern counties. He conducts labor market information training and other ad hoc research, such as the Agricultural Wage Survey. Mr. Mathews has served as an assistant adjunct professor of economics at the University of Utah and is currently on the economics faculty at the University of Phoenix.

Trendlines

Editor-In-Chief

Kim Bartel

Editors

Mark Knold

Lecia Parks Langston

Coordination

Connie Blaine

Art Designer

Jane Hammond

MeLauni Jensen

Internet Publication

Kim Bartel

Michael Hanni

Utah Department of Workforce Services

Executive Director

Tani Downing

Workforce Information Director

Stephen Maas

Trendlines is published bimonthly by Workforce Information Division of the Utah Department of Workforce Services. To read, download, or print this publication (free), see our internet site:

jobs.utah.gov/wi

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Rob Stark has been a research analyst at the Department of Workforce Services since 2004. He works on the Occupational Employment Survey (the source of our wage data), the Job Vacancy Study, and other special studies. He is finishing his economics degree at the University of Utah where he also competes as a sprinter on the track & field team.

Carrie Mayne is the supervisor over the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) programs and is also responsible for the state's Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program. Carrie earned a Bachelors of Science in economics from the University of Utah. She is currently completing a PhD in economics from the same institution, and teaching courses in economics there as well. Her fields of specialization include labor economics, industrial organization, and econometrics.



Nate Talley works as a research analyst on the Occupational Employment Statistics program. Although his primary job responsibilities are related to OES, he contributes extensively to the Job Vacancy Survey and is looking forward to being involved with the upcoming Benefits Survey as well. Nate holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Utah and played football for Southern Utah University before moving to Salt Lake City.

Austin Sargent is an economist with DWS. He responsible for the federal/state cooperative program - LAUS (Local Area Unemployment Statistics). Mr. Sargent has been an economist with DWS for six years. Prior to that he was a research economist for fourteen years at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Utah. Austin has a Masters in public administration and a Bachelor's of Arts degree in political science from the University of Utah. He is currently an associate member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and a member of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum.



Jim Robson is the regional economist for Salt Lake, Utah, Tooele, Summit and Wasatch counties. He worked for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget analyzing Utah and at Utah Foundations. Mr. Robson has worked for and participated with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, the Utah Population Estimates Committee, and is past president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum. Jim has a Bachelor of Science in economics from the University of Utah.

The Sweet Smell of Success

Summer Youth Employment Opportunities



Utah's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program provides funding for a variety of youth services, and Summer Youth Employment Opportunities (SYEO) is just around the corner. SYEO is an internship program for eligible youth, which matches young people with private and public employers in summer jobs that correspond with the individual career interests of young people on the program. There is an academic component to the program because it is important for youth to understand the connection between what they learn at school and on the job.

The purpose of the WIA youth program is to help eligible young people stay in school and get a high school diploma or GED, and to get and keep employment. The vision for Utah's program is that WIA youth will live successfully as adults. The WIA youth program is a year around initiative, which provides youth development support as well as focus on post-secondary vocational training in high-growth/high demand industries and occupations. In fact, SYEO combines work experience with other services to provide a broad base of skills for future success. It is not a stand-alone program.

Other available services include:

- Tutoring, study skills training and drop-out prevention
- Alternative education
- Leadership development
- Mentoring
- Paid and unpaid internships
- Post-secondary vocational education
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- Other support (career related emergency financial help)
- Incentives to recognize achievement of goals
- Follow-up


To be eligible, a young person must be between the ages of 14 and 21, come from a low-income situation, and possess barriers that interfere with the ability to stay in school or to get and keep a job. Services are available throughout Utah at Department of Workforce Services employment centers or through community partners such as Salt Lake County Youth Employability Services in Salt Lake and Tooele counties, Futures Through Training in Weber, Davis and Morgan counties, and Mountainland Consortium of Schools in Utah, Wasatch and Summit Counties. ❶

More? Find locations of WIA youth providers at <http://www.jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/Links/youth/yproviderlist.pdf>. Also, check out the interesting information especially for young people at: www.justforyouth.utah.gov.

Taking the High Road to Wasatch County

An “urban fringe” county with a rural background, Wasatch County is fast becoming a major year-round recreational mecca for Utah’s urban dwellers. The county has three large reservoirs, an historic railroad, and the 2002 Winter Olympic cross-country and biathlon venue of Soldier Hollow anchoring a multitude of outdoor leisure opportunities. With commuting times of less than 45 minutes, Wasatch County has strong recreational and economic ties to both the Salt Lake and the Provo/Orem metropolitan areas.

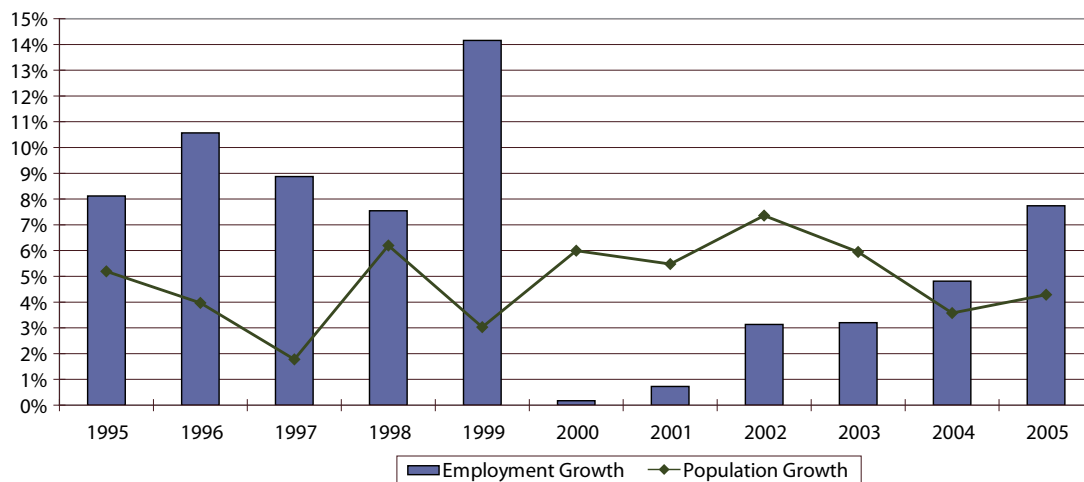
Residential construction is booming with low interest rates and people seeking to locate in a scenic, rural setting within close proximity of urban amenities.

Since the 2000 Census, the Wasatch County population has increased by 31.4 percent, making it the second fastest growing county in the state, not too far behind the blistering population growth of Washington County’s 40.7 percent. 

did you know?

- Ice fishing is popular on the high-elevation Strawberry Reservoir.
- Jobs in the leisure and hospitality industry comprise 17.7 percent of nonfarm employment in Wasatch County. The statewide average is 9.2 percent.
- The largest city in Wasatch County is Heber with about 8,800 residents.
- Eighty-nine percent of Wasatch County residents over the age of 25 have at least a high school diploma and 26.3 percent have at least a Bachelor’s degree, according to the 2000 Census.

**Wasatch County Annual Growth in Population and Employment
1995 to 2005**



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services and Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget



Why I got

A college degree is thought to have endless payoffs, including better career opportunities. But how much better? Will four years of college really pay off in the end? Is that undergraduate degree really going to make a difference in terms of the jobs for which you are qualified?

Earning Potential

According to 2003 national Census data, the median weekly earnings for full-time wage and salary workers age 25 and over with a high school diploma is around \$550. Their counterparts with a Bachelor's degree earn a median weekly wage of \$900. Over a lifetime, that constitutes a gap of more than \$1,000,000 in earning potential between a high school diploma and an undergraduate degree.

Weighing the Pros and Cons

A college education isn't cheap. According to CollegeBoard.com, the current average cost of four years of college at a public institution is \$21,964. At a private school it is \$84,940. Suppose you set aside that wage premium (the additional \$346 per week you earn having completed that Bachelor's degree) until your college loan is paid off. Ignoring taxes and interest, at most it would take you only 16 months to get out of debt.

Job Stability

In addition to higher earnings, a Bachelor's degree will also help you stay employed. According to the Census, in 2003 the national average unemployment rate for high school graduates was 5.5 percent. For those with a Bachelor's degree, that rate was only 3.3 percent. This means that an individual with only a high school diploma was over 1.5 times more likely to be unemployed than an individual with a Bachelor's degree.


The Utah Job Scene

Jobs requiring a Bachelor's degree or higher are predicted to make up 19.7 percent of all Utah jobs in 2012, second only to jobs requiring short-term on-the-job training (36.2 percent). While the less-skilled jobs may be more plentiful, they pay considerably less. The weighted average

my college degree...

hourly wage in 2004 for jobs in Utah requiring a Bachelor's degree was \$25.30. For jobs requiring only short-term on-the-job training, the hourly wage was \$9.90. Based on these averages, the education wage premium for Utah occupations is about \$15.40 per hour.

So...why go to college?

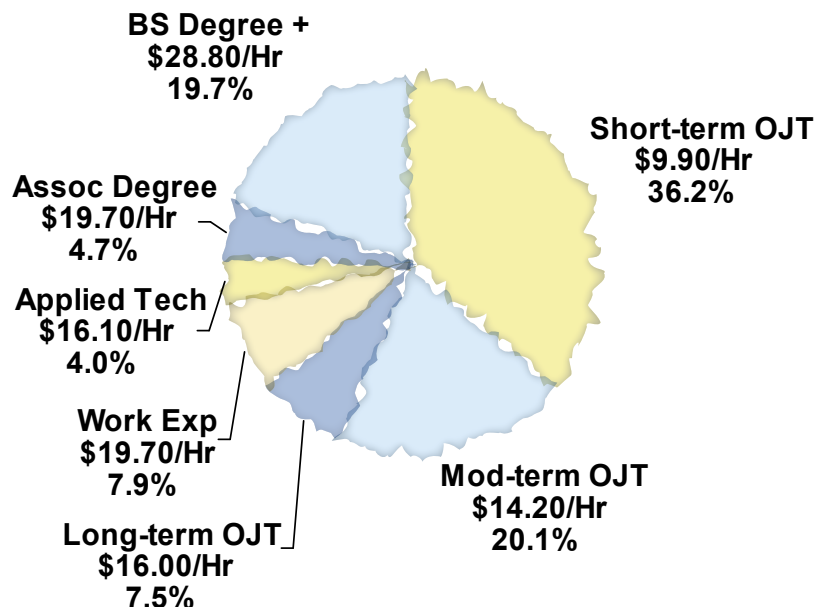
There may be fewer jobs out there for college graduates than there are for high school graduates, and those four years of college may put you in a significant amount of debt, but in the end it will probably be worth it. You'll likely have an easier time maintaining employment, your wallet will potentially be fatter, and you'll surely have something interesting to say at your next social gathering. 



More?

<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/outlooks/state/>
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>

Percent of Utah Jobs in 2012 by Training Level & Average Wage (2004)



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, July 2004.

The first baby boomers
are turning 60 and
retirement looms ahead

No Spring Chicken



Who's Booming?

If you used to have long hair, and now you're longing for hair, you just might be a Baby Boomer. If the clothes you've put away until they come back in style have come back in style (even though they don't fit any more), you just might be a Baby Boomer. And, if you were born between 1946 and 1964, you definitely are a Baby Boomer.

The Baby Boom generation has dominated this country's demographics since their birth. Now, the first Baby Boomers are turning 60 and retirement looms ahead. Areas with large Boomer populations will soon find themselves with significantly smaller labor forces. With this in mind, let's take a look at which counties currently house the largest share of Baby Boomers.

On or Off the "Front"?

Do counties outside the Wasatch Front have a larger or smaller share of Baby Boomers than the "big four" (Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, and Weber) counties? Remarkably, the core Wasatch Front counties and the remainder of the state show almost identical shares of Baby Boomers in their populations—roughly 23 percent for both.

However, these averages can be deceiving. Utah's counties show diverse shares of Baby-Boomer populations. Summit County tops the list with a full third of its population in the Baby Boomer group. On the other end of the spectrum, Utah County shows only 17 percent Baby-Boomer population. Utah County bucks the trend of the rest of the Wasatch Front counties which exhibit Baby-Boomer shares in a tight 24-to-25

percent range.


No Copy Cats Here

Counties “off the Front” are as diverse in this demographic measure as they are in most others. Interestingly, counties which include a dominant college or university typically show the smallest shares of Baby Boom populations. Along with Utah County, Cache, Washington, Iron, and Sanpete County show the smallest share of Boomers in Utah.

From Youth to Old Age

Populations that are either extremely bottom-heavy (lots of kids) or top-heavy (lots of seniors)

certainly impact the share of Boomers in a particular county. For example, San Juan and Juab County have the highest share of under-18 population in the state and rank near the bottom of the ranking. In addition, Piute and Washington counties have the highest share of seniors in the state, and also show small shares of Baby Boomer populations.

Being the youngest state in the nation certainly contributes to Utah counties having a smaller-than-average share of Baby Boomers. In fact, only three counties—Summit, Grand, and Daggett—show higher percentages of Baby Boomers than the national average. 

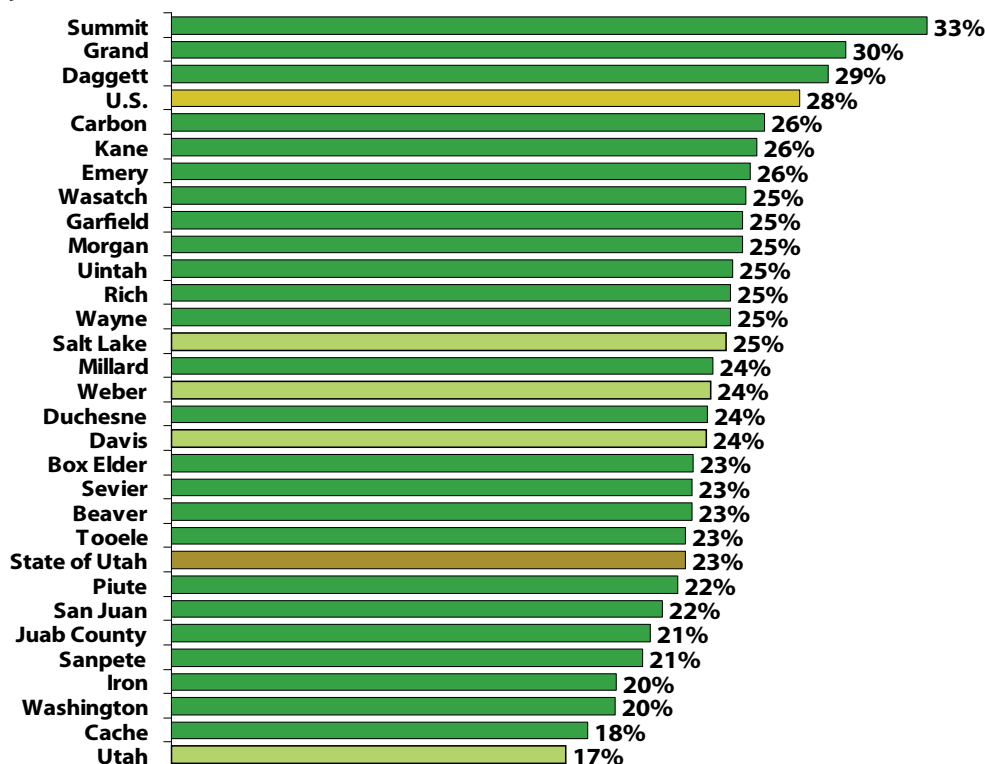
did you know?

- Brian Head Resort in Iron County announced a proposed expansion that eventually could include a golf course, a lodge and high-end housing. *The Spectrum*

- According to a report from the U.S. Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, St. George (with an appreciation rate of 31.6 percent) ranked among the top five U.S. cities for home price appreciation. *The Deseret Morning News*

- Utah Power has signed a 20-year agreement to buy 42 megawatts of power from a geothermal plant near Cove Fort in Beaver County, but it could be two years or more before electricity begins flowing according to Amp Resources, a Utah-based energy firm. *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Baby Boomers* as a Share of Total Population, 2000



* Population born between 1946 and 1964.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

More? <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/regions/>

Bored this SUMMER?



Large numbers of high school and college students seek employment at the end of each school year. Some are looking for temporary summer jobs, while others are new graduates trying to begin a career. There is a definite seasonal pattern of increased participation of young adults (ages 16-to-24) in the labor force. From April to July, the relatively large influx of young people into the labor market increases both employment and unemployment for this age group. July is the summertime peak of this annual cycle in youth labor market activity.

The improved job picture in the overall U.S. economy in the past two years has benefited young workers who need temporary summer jobs or have finished their current schooling and are embarking on a career. The youth employment outlook for the spring and summer of 2006 is expected to be the best since 2000.

In 2005, the number of employed young adults between the ages of 16-to-25 in the U.S. increased by almost 2.7 million to 21.7 million from April to July. This 14 percent increase in employed youths compares favorably to the 12.1 percent increase in young adults who were unemployed during this same period. The number of unemployed aged 16 to 24 went from 2.4 million in April to 2.7 million in July, an increase of about 300,000. Because the number of employed youths grew faster than those unemployed, the unemployment rate declined slightly from 11.2 percent in April to 11.0 in July.


The proportion of all young adults – the 36.7 million civilian non-institutional population from 16-to-24 – who are working or are seeking work was 66.6 percent in July 2005. This measure, the “labor force participation rate,” has been trending down since the early 1990s and has not been this low since July 1965.

The breakout of the participation rate by gender shows that 63.6 percent of young women and 69.6 percent of young men were in the labor force.

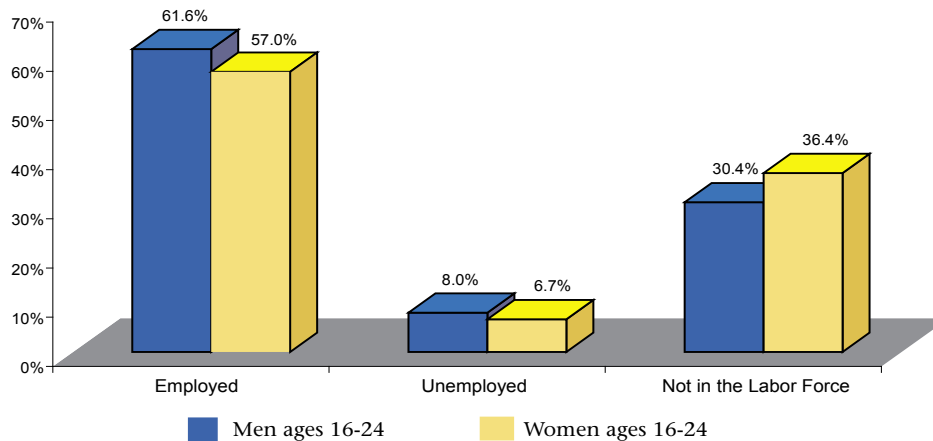
Another labor market measure relates employment to the population. The employment/population

ratio for youth—the proportion of 16-to-24-year-old civilian non-institutional population that was employed—was 59.3 percent in July 2005. The youth employment/population ratio was considerably higher six years ago at 65.2 percent in July 1999.

One important reason for the decline in both the labor force participation rate and the

employment-population ratio is increased summer school enrollment. Over the past decade, school enrollment of 16-to-24-year-olds in July has grown from 16.6 percent in 1995 to 27.8 percent in 2005. Only about half of youth enrolled in school are in the labor force compared to about three-fourths of those not in school. 

U.S. Youth* Employment Status: July 2005
Percent

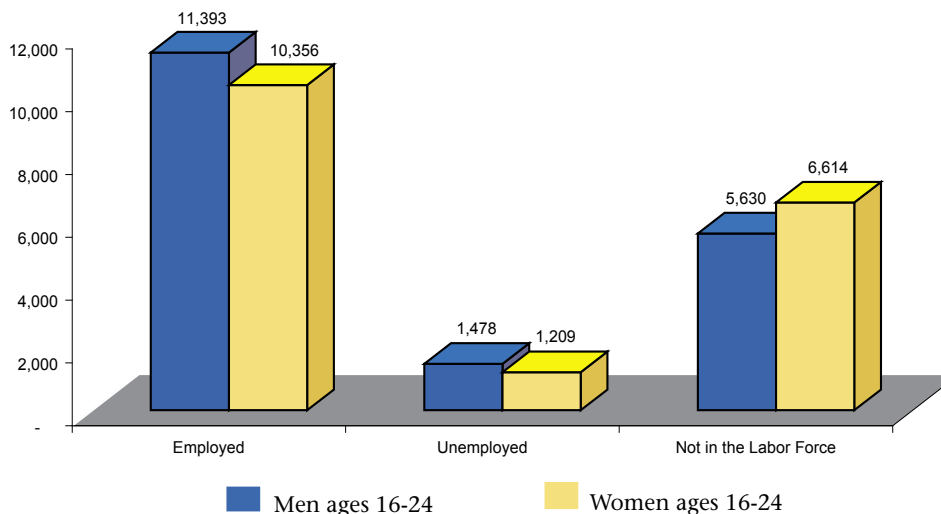


*Civilian noninstitutional population 16- to 24-years of age.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

“The youth employment outlook for the spring and summer of 2006 is expected to be the best since 2000.”

U.S. Youth* Employment Status: July 2005
(numbers in thousands)



*Civilian noninstitutional population 16- to 24-years of age.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

71 Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation

Utah



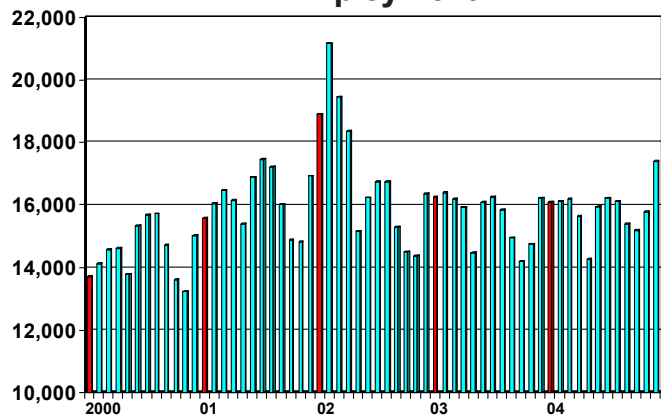
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation comprises 1.8 percent of all state employment. It has an average monthly wage of \$1,518. 42 percent lower than the statewide average for all industries.

Largest Employers

Lagoon*
 Dear Valley Resort*
 The Delta Center*
 The Canyons*
 Park City Mountain Resort*
 Sundance Partners*
 Alta Ski Resort*
 National Park Service*
 Brian Head Resort*
 Snowbasin Ski Resort*
 Sports & Fitness Club of America
 Ogden Athletic Club
 Xcel Spa & Fitness
 Tree House Athletic Club
 Salt Lake City Parks*
 Utah's Hogle Zoo*
 Sports Academy & Racquet Club

* Peak seasonal employment

**Arts, Entertainment, Recreation
Employment**



2004	Employment	Wage*
Total	19,954	\$1,518
Performing Arts & Spectator Sports	3,005	\$3,101
Performing Arts Companies	730	\$2,070
Spectator Sports	634	\$8,398
Promoters of Performing Arts & Sports	1,292	\$1,128
Agents & Managers for Public Figures	55	\$4,350
Independent Artists, Writers, & Performers	294	\$2,679
Museums, Historical Sites, Zoos, & Parks	1,894	\$2,084
Amusements, Gambling, & Recreation	15,055	\$1,13
Amusement Parks & Arcades	1,209	\$922
Other Amusement & Recreation Industries	13,755	\$1,149

Year	Employment	Average Monthly Wage	% of Utah Avg. Wage	# of Establishments	Payrolls	Payroll % of State Total	Emp. % of State Totals
2000	18,232	\$1,326	55.2	799	\$290.1 M	1.7	0.9
2001	20,045	\$1,468	59.4	851	\$353.1 M	1.9	1.1
2002	20,903	\$1,804	71.9	4,324	\$452.5 M	1.9	1.4
2003	19,703	\$1,486	58.2	4,392	\$351.3 M	1.8	1.1
2004	19,954	\$1,518	57.5	4,647	\$363.5 M	1.8	1.0

industry history

arts,
entertainment,
& recreation

County	A/E/R Employment	% of State A/E/R Emp.	A/E/R % of County Total Employment	Largest A/E/R Employer
Salt Lake	6,728	33.7	1.3	The Delta Center
Summit	2,748	13.8	15.7	Deer Valley
Utah	2,626	13.2	1.6	Thanksgiving Point
Davis	2,346	11.8	2.5	Lagoon
Weber	1,454	7.3	1.6	Ogden Athletic Club
Washington	1,048	5.3	2.4	St. George City Golf Course
Cache	696	3.5	1.5	Sports Acad. & Racq. Club
Kane	379	1.9	13.3	Aramark Sports
Grand	339	1.7	8.1	National Park Service
Iron	326	1.6	2.2	Brian Head Resort

county profiles

arts,
entertainment,
& recreation

CLASS OF 2006

More?

<http://careers.utah.gov/>

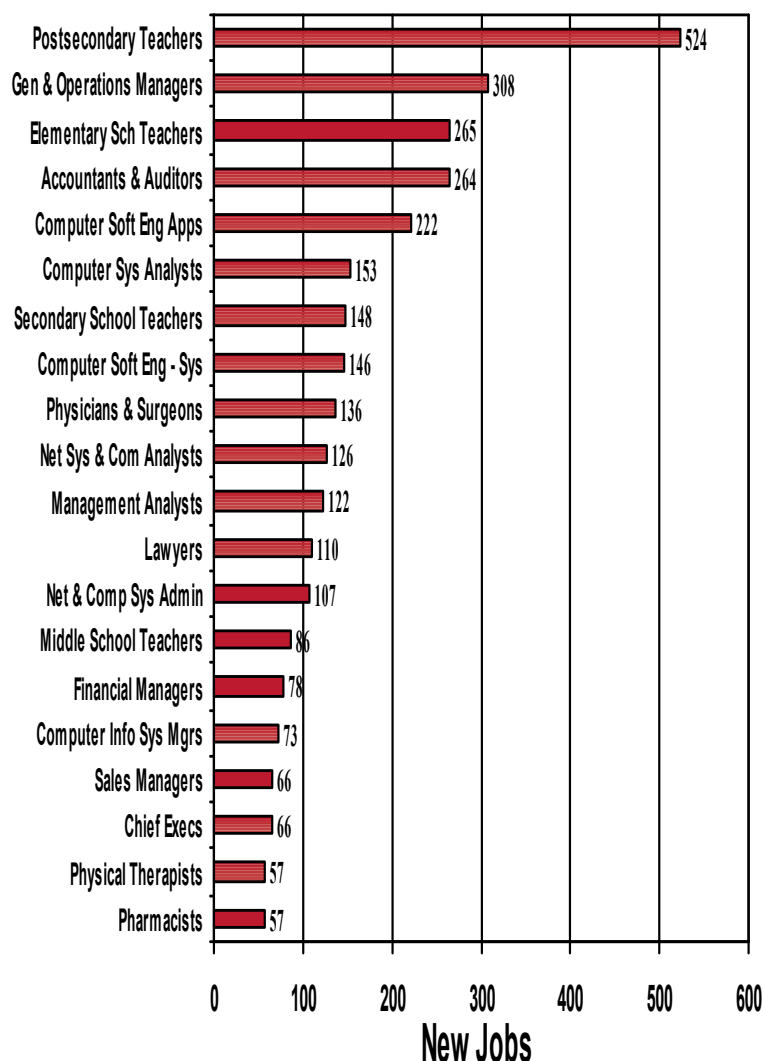
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<http://www.naceweb.org/press/display.asp?year=&prid=226>

http://www.utahsbr.edu/prospective_students/institutions.htm

<http://www.commerce.utah.gov/dcp/education/proprietaryschools.html>

Most New Jobs, Highest Paying*
Bachelor's or Higher Degree, U.S. 2004 - 2014



According to a national survey, employers are going to be hiring more grads this year than in past years. Good news: The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) says that employers expect to hire 14.5 percent more new college grads in 2005-2006 than they hired the previous year. The job market for new grads has been improving since the depths of the recession in 2002 when employers were planning to hire fewer workers with college degrees than in previous years.

According to the survey, companies want students with degrees in business, engineering, and computer-related disciplines. These findings are backed up by the overall performance of the economy. When the economy is growing, more jobs will be created for all types of workers, including those with college degrees.

Cold Hard Fact #1:

A Degree Is No Guarantee of the Good Life

Not to burst your bubble, but the fact is that some degrees are in demand more than others; and when considered "in demand" these jobs can, and do, command more pay. In general, a college degree is a very good thing. Education is always a plus. An educated workforce empowers a more productive and innovative economy. This may sound like so much "fluff" when all you want to know is "What do I get for at least 4 years of effort and sacrifice, a pat on the back for a job well done?" Well for new grads, the reward is getting a job and moving on with their careers, and especially enjoying some of that new-found wealth. That is the upside to the meager existence of being a poor college student.

Cold Hard Fact #2:

You may have to move out of state to find that "great" job.

A word to the wise: You may have to relocate to accept that ideal job. This is very important. Although many jobs for college grads will be right here in the Beehive State, many more will be out-of-state. The Utah economy accounts for less than one percent of the total number of employers in the U.S. and also less than one percent of total jobs in the country. That's why you may have to relocate.


*Annual Earnings over \$43,605

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bur of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Winter 2005-2006

Things are looking good!

Best Prospects for College Grads

The Bureau of Labor Statistics says in its just-released 2004-2014 occupational projections that half of the 30 fastest-growing occupations will be for jobs that call for at least a Bachelor's degree. Also, about 30 percent of all job openings during the 10-year period will be for college-trained workers. The top five occupations calling for at least a Bachelor's degree with the most job openings are general managers, elementary school teachers, accountants, computer software engineers (applications), and computer systems analysts.

For the nation, and all of you grads are in a national—if not international—job market, the chart shows the top 20 occupations calling for a Bachelor's or higher degree also pay in the top one-fourth of the wages of all workers. 

A Note From the Hill...

Outlook for U of U grads in May

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the University of Utah Career Services office had more job postings and employer participation at our career fairs than in recent years. This suggests that our 2006 graduates will have more employment opportunities to consider at graduation. Government recruiting also has seen higher activity, with starting salaries comparable to our overall average salary offers, and good promotional opportunities with high expectations of job security.

Also, increasingly, students recognize the importance and need for internships and relevant volunteer experiences. These opportunities lead to better offers and help students make better career decisions. Internships provide experience that employers value when deciding who to hire among competing candidates, especially in health, business, engineering, and communications.

by Dana Sowby, Associate Director of Career Services, University of Utah



Rapid job growth in the Uintah Basin's mining industry is causing significant changes to the local labor market

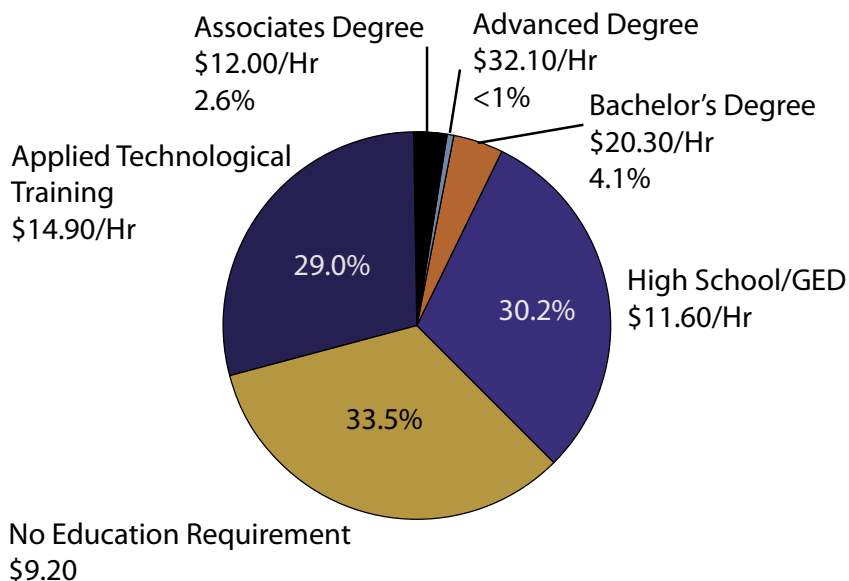
The March of the Roustabouts!



The Uintah Basin is booming – we all know that, but just how big of a boom is it? Well, in terms of demand for workers, this year's Job Vacancy Study (JVS) shows that the Uintah Basin had a job vacancy rate of 5.2 percent. That is, for every 100 jobs in the area there were roughly five vacant jobs. Of the three areas in this year's study this was the highest vacancy rate reported.

Sure there are open jobs, but what about pay? The JVS also confirms speculation about high wages for job seekers. In fact, at \$12.20 per hour, the Uintah Basin offers the same average asking wage for job openings as Metropolitan Utah. Of individual jobs that met the study's confidentiality standards, it is not surprising that occupations related to mining and extraction make up eight of the top ten highest-paid openings.


UINTAH BASIN SHARE OF OPEN JOBS PER LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Another measure of how much demand exists can be illustrated by describing a point of methodology of the JVS. For a region as small as the tri-county area considered the Uintah Basin in the study, it is difficult for individual occupations to reach the study's confidentiality standards in order to publish information on them. For example, in last year's study, an area similar in size to the Basin could only publish information for five individual occupations. This year in the Uintah Basin, information can be published on fourteen different occupations.

So what else does the JVS say about the kind of vacant jobs in the Basin? One thing that stands out is that jobs in the mining industry are closely related. For example, in many cases roustabouts and truck drivers were reported interchangeably. Fully 20 percent of the roustabout openings required some kind of professional license – presumably a Commercial Driver's License.

Employers in the Uintah Basin also showed a clear preference for workers with applied technology training. In contrast to the other two regions, 29 percent of the openings reported required some form of vocational education. The high vacancy rates in the mining and healthcare industries – where many occupations require vocational education – are responsible for this statistical anomaly.

Without question, rapid job growth in the Uintah Basin's mining industry is causing significant changes to the local labor market. Luckily, this year's JVS data provides us a timely and important snapshot that allows us to quantify just how much of a boom the county is experiencing. 

UINTAH – BASIN TOP TEN JOB OPENINGS BY AVERAGE ASKING WAGE

Occupation	Mean Wage	**Estimated Openings	Estimated Employment	Vacancy Rate
<i>Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas</i>	<i>\$18.60</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>19.0%</i>
<i>Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas</i>	<i>\$18.60</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>13.3%</i>
<i>*Bus & Truck Mechanic & Diesel Engine Specialists</i>	<i>\$16.90</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>11.1%</i>
<i>*Truck Driver, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer</i>	<i>\$16.00</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>9.6%</i>
<i>Roustabouts, Oil and Gas</i>	<i>\$14.90</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>11.0%</i>
<i>Licensed Practitioner & Licensed Vocational Nurse</i>	<i>\$13.00</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>13.3%</i>
<i>Service Unit Operator, Oil, Gas & Mine</i>	<i>\$10.10</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>9.9%</i>
<i>*Construction Laborers</i>	<i>\$9.70</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>18.1%</i>
<i>Helpers—Extraction Workers</i>	<i>\$9.70</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>18.1%</i>
<i>Teacher Assistants</i>	<i>\$9.50</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>4.7%</i>

Italicized: Energy-related occupations

*Job openings strongly influenced in Uintah Basin region by mining

**Asking wage is for job openings and does not represent wage of all employed persons in that occupation

UINTAH – BASIN JOB OPENINGS BY INDUSTRY

Industry Name	Total Employment	Total Estimated Vacancies	Industry Vacancy Rate	Industry Average Asking Wage
Construction	1183	150	12.5%	\$15.00
Mining	2706	145	5.3%	\$13.80
Health Care and Social Assistance	1728	85	4.9%	\$12.60
Accommodation and Food Services	1508	75	5.0%	\$6.50
Transportation and Warehousing	1039	70	6.5%	\$15.00
Retail Trade	2219	60	2.7%	\$7.20
Wholesale Trade	514	40	8.0%	\$10.50
Other Services (except Public Administration)	357	35	9.8%	\$13.10
Educational Services	1584	30	1.8%	\$10.00
Finance and Insurance	256	25	10.3%	\$14.70
Administrative and Support and Waste, Management and Remediation Services	221	20	7.9%	\$12.40
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	366	20	4.7%	\$12.40
Utilities	355	15	3.6%	\$10.30

How I Spent My Summer Vacation...



Summer job
outlook
for youth

Are you a teen who dreams of flipping burgers, working construction or being a lifeguard this summer? If so, you're in luck. With Utah's low unemployment rate and booming job growth, the summer job outlook for youth is hot hot hot! A strong economy means that fewer adults will be competing for these entry-level jobs, leaving teens and college-age adults with excellent summer job prospects in many industries.

In Utah, about 65 percent of teens age 16-24 are employed, which is higher than the national average. This is a combination of half of 16-19 year olds that work and three-fourths of 20-24 year olds that work. Utah's large family sizes are one reason why more youth work during the summer to earn extra money. The job outlook here in Utah should be even better than nationally, since Utah's unemployment rate currently registers a full point below the national average.

While there is a good chance that you will be able to find a job this summer, remember that there is still competition for these jobs. In Utah, about 150,000 people in this age group either work or are looking for work. To increase your chances of landing that ideal summer job, you will want to start exploring your options early. Opportunities will be best in industries that are growing or need seasonal workers during the summer months. These industries are healthcare, construction, accommodation and food service, and recreation. Identify your unique strengths, interests and career goals to determine which job in which industry best suits you.


If you enjoy working with people and are interested in a career in healthcare, for example, you could pursue a summer job as a home health aide. Do you want to know the average pay and the demand for the job you are considering? Take your "research" one step further by checking out DWS' comprehensive information on wages and job outlook by occupation (see the web link at the end of this article). Keep in mind that when you are starting out, you will probably be on the low end of the pay scale.

Once you've decided what type of work interests you, don't be afraid to approach employers to ask if they are hiring this summer. Remember to make

a good impression by being polite, well groomed, and enthusiastic. Unless you are applying to be a rock star, don't dress like one. Apathetic job seekers with messy hair, tattoos and piercings

Make a good impression by being polite, well groomed, and enthusiastic

may look cool on MTV, but an extreme appearance and an "I don't care" attitude aren't such a hit with employers. Looking like a professional will go a long way towards convincing the employer that

you are mature, responsible and have what it takes to succeed. Persistence pays off, and may set you apart from the throng of job seekers. When my polite, well groomed brother was trying to land his summer dream job at the local burger shack many years ago, he visited the employer several times before he was finally offered a position. 

Selected Summer Jobs and their Wages

Occupation	Utah Entry Wage
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker	\$7.20
Child Care Workers	\$6.00
Fast Food Cooks	\$6.00
Retail Salespersons	\$7.00
General Office Clerks	\$7.50
Cashiers	\$6.10

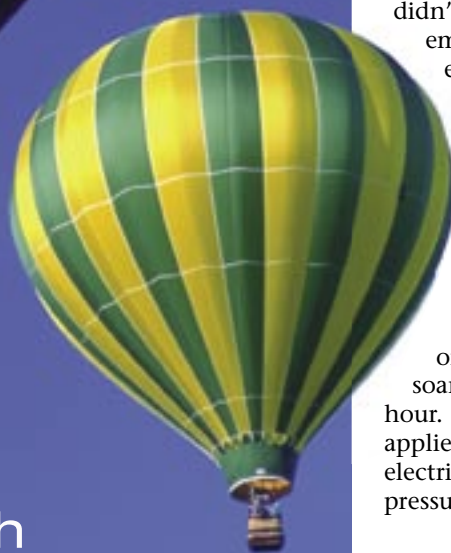
More? For the latest economic data and information on occupations, job outlook and wages: <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi>. There will be lots of good opportunities this summer. Good luck finding that perfect job, and have fun.



On the Rise



2005 Job Vacancy Study: A Profile of Job Openings in Utah



With 2006 just underway, I've already accomplished my New Year's resolution. How could I have possibly lost all that weight so fast you ask? I didn't. My resolution was to evaluate whether Utah's 2005 Job Vacancy Study (JVS) revealed a rise in the metropolitan region's job vacancy rate.

In the fourth quarter of 2004 the Wasatch Front witnessed a modest 2.1 percent job vacancy rate, meaning that there were about two job openings for every 100 jobs in the region. Since that time, the prevalence of help wanted signs has increased and the fourth quarter of 2005 job vacancy rate reached 2.9 percent. Further, the average wage for the metro job vacancy rose from \$11.20 an hour to \$12.20 an hour, reflecting the increased demand for labor.

Overall, the composition of the metropolitan region's vacancies did not deviate much from what it was 2004. In the fourth quarter of '04, about 71 percent of the job vacancies required no post-secondary education and only 35 percent required related job experience. In the fourth quarter of 2005, almost 70 percent of the job openings required no more than a high school diploma and 38 percent required related job experience. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the majority of the job openings were generally low-skill, high-turnover occupations such as retail salespersons, cashiers and customer service representatives.

This is not to say that the labor market didn't show the need for higher-skilled employees. Wait a minute...is that an earthquake I hear? No, it's the boom in the construction industry! With the construction industry's year-over employment growth closing in on 11 percent, we expected to see more job openings¹. Construction-related job openings exceeded 3,000 for the final quarter of 2005, dwarfing the 1,870 vacancies found in the industry at the end of 2004. Additionally, the average offered wage for openings in the industry soared from \$12.10 an hour to \$16.30 an hour. A higher demand for positions requiring applied technology training such as plumbers, electricians and carpenters added to the upward pressure on the average offered wages.


Most Open Occupations Requiring an Associate Degree or Applied Technology Training

Occupation ²	Estimated # of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate	Average Advertised Wage/Hour
Truck Driver, Heavy	578	4.3%	\$15.70
Registered Nurse	377	2.8%	\$18.80
Electricians	277	6.4%	\$15.10
Nurses Aides	252	3.6%	\$8.60
Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steam	222	5.6%	\$17.70
Carpenters	213	2.2%	\$13.70
Welders	204	7.3%	\$13.80
Automotive Service Techs	186	3.7%	\$17.70
Hairdressers	146	6.1%	\$9.80
HR Assistants	127	11.4%	\$12.40

A good number of the top ten openings that required a Bachelor's degree or higher were typically found in the professional, scientific and technical services. Computer programmers, computer software engineers, computer systems analysts and database administrators all found their way onto this list, and all experienced a rise in vacancies since the last survey.

Most Open Occupations Requiring a Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Occupation	Estimated # of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate	Average Advertised Wage/Hour
Computer Programmers	164	3.2%	\$28.50
Comp Software Engineers, Systems Software	114	2.9%	\$30.90
Civil Engineers	97	7.4%	\$23.90
Computer Systems Analyst	82	2%	\$19.90
Sales Reps, Technical & Scientific	78	2%	\$21.20
Industrial Engineers	65	5.7%	\$25.50
Medical and Clinical Lab Technologists	60	4.8%	\$16.70
Database Administrators	59	10.4%	\$24.00
Pharmacists	55	3.3%	\$41.60
Accountants and Auditors	47	<1%	\$18.40

Although not specifically addressed in my resolution for 2006, southwestern Utah added to my New Year's cheer by posting a significant increase in vacant jobs during the fourth quarter of 2005. At five percent, southwestern Utah's vacancy rate was up considerably from 3.1 percent the year before. Clearly, there is much more to elaborate on in the Southwestern region and all JVS areas. If it's Uintah Basin data you want, see **The March of the Roustabouts** in this publication. 

More? For comprehensive regional reports and complete survey results, <http://jobs.utah.gov>.

¹ Year-over calculations taken from the third quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2005

² Full occupational titles and definitions are available at www.bls.gov



Utah's RED HOT Job Market

Resurgence is underway in Utah's economy. Job growth in nonfarm employment is approaching four percent—a stark contrast to the recent recession period between 2001 and 2003. An important barometer of the health of the current expansion is the improvement in employment growth in high-wage industries.


Currently, the estimated average annual payroll wage for all industries in Utah is \$33,000. Among Utah's 19 major private-based industrial sectors, nine consistently show average annual payroll wages above the state's average, while eight have average annual payroll wages below the state's average wages. The industry with the highest average annual wage is utilities at \$75,400. However, it is also the smallest industry in the state with 3,900 workers. The lowest average annual payroll wage is in the accommodation and food service industry at \$12,500. This industry employs 87,600, making it the fourth largest private industry sector for employment.

Historically, at times, two prominent industries construction and healthcare and social assistance wages are slightly above the state average and other times they are below. The public sector's average annual payroll wages are also consistently slightly above the state average.



The past recession hit Utah and the four metro (Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, Weber) counties' high-wage industries hard. In 2000, employment in industries that paid above the state average wage was higher than for those that paid below the state average. This was true for the state and particularly in the metro counties. However, by the end of the recession in 2003, jobs in industries with above-average employment fell by more than 21,000 statewide; and nearly all of this was in the metro counties.

Since the recession ended in 2003, jobs in industries that pay above-average wages have risen by more than 22,000, more than offsetting jobs lost during the recession. The metro area's recovery is slightly behind the rest of the state, adding around 15,000 jobs in high-wage industries. At the same time, jobs that pay below the state average fell only slightly during the recession, but they too have seen a jump in employment since 2003, adding nearly 25,000 jobs statewide, with almost 19,000 in the metro area.

This jump in employment in high-wage industries is an important factor in the currently robust economic recovery in Utah. Another positive result of this high-wage employment growth is the added impact to economic vitality that higher wage jobs bring—more sustainable consumption of goods and services within the economy. 

highlights

Salt Lake City bean counters put a real revenue number to what had been anecdotal discussions of Salt Lake's remodeling and building boom—\$1.1 million—and that's just for three months. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the city's building permit budget showed revenue more than double the amount managers had estimated would be generated between this past July 1 and Sept. 30. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635168405,00.html>

Funding is in place for the state-of-the-art Real Salt Lake soccer stadium, and construction should begin early in 2006 on the 25,000-seat, \$65-million stadium. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635168970,00.html>

Utah's job growth rate continued to accelerate in December, closing out 2005 at one of the fastest rates in the nation. Utah spawned 44,000 jobs in the past year—a growth rate of 3.9 percent from Dec. 2004 to Dec. 2005, according to the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

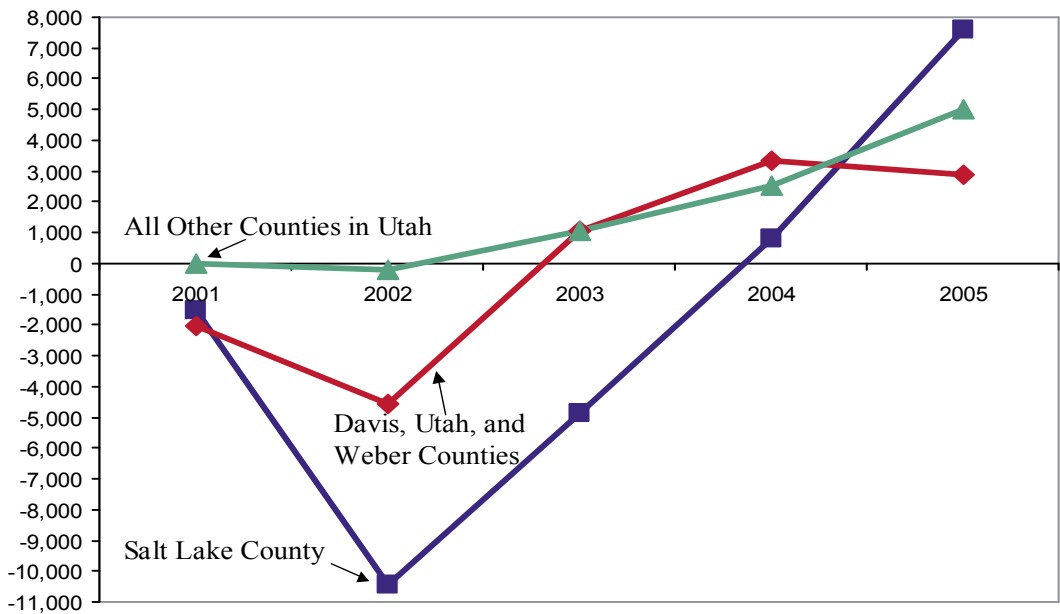
Nationally, job growth was 1.5 percent in the same period. http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_3412249

Utah's ATK/Thiokol is flying high after receiving a new U.S. Air Force contract that allows it to continue to update and replace the aging motors on the nation's last remaining land-based strategic missile system. The contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman Mission Systems that is serving as the prime contractor for the Minuteman III system upgrade. ATK/Thiokol, as the subcontractor supplying the missile motors, will receive the bulk of the two-year contract's revenue - about \$194 million. http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_3415890

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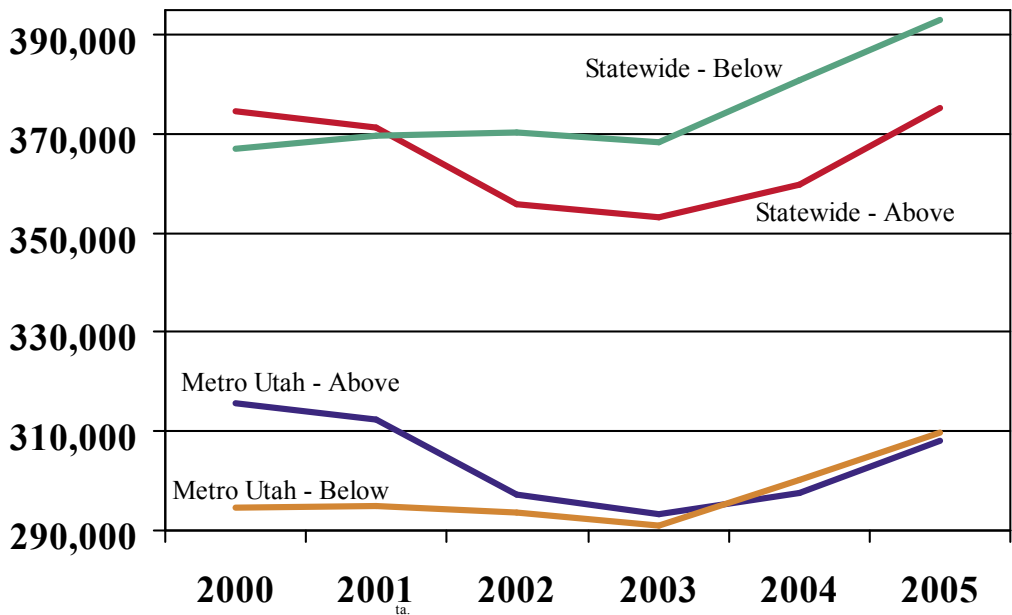
Utah's
RED
HOT
Job
Market

Numeric Change in Employment for Private Industries Above the State Average Annual Payroll, 2001 -2005*



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services
Note: Excludes employment in construction and healthcare and social assistance since they are sometimes above and sometimes below the state average. Excludes Government employment.

Employment Growth by Private Industries Above and Below Annual Payroll Average, 2000-2005*



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services
Note: Excludes employment in construction and healthcare and social assistance since they are sometimes above and sometimes below the state average. Excludes Government employment.

did you know?

According to the American Community Survey, the median age in Utah is 27.1 years compared to 35.3 years in the entire United States?

the facts are....

December 2005 Changes From Last Year

Utah Unemployment Rate	3.8 %	↓	1.2 points
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9 %	↓	0.5 points
Utah Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	1,180.2	↑	3.9 %
U.S. Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	135,044.0	↑	1.5 %

October 2005

U.S. Consumer Price Index	196.8	↑	3.4 %
U.S. Producer Price Index	163.0	↑	8.5 %

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

December 2005

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Beaver	4.4%	Piute	2.9%
Box Elder	4.1%	Rich	2.7%
Cache	3.3%	Salt Lake	3.9%
Carbon	5.2%	San Juan	8.1%
Daggett	5.2%	Sanpete	5.3%
Davis	3.7%	Sevier	4.3%
Duchesne	4.3%	Summit	3.9%
Emery	4.3%	Tooele	3.9%
Garfield	6.2%	Uintah	3.7%
Grand	4.5%	Utah	3.6%
Iron	3.6%	Wasatch	3.3%
Juab	3.8%	Washington	3.1%
Kane	3.3%	Wayne	4.7%
Millard	4.7%	Weber	4.2%
Morgan	3.8%		

Theme :
Construction

County
Highlight:
Sevier

Industry:
Real Estate,
Rental,
& Leasing

Next Time

Trendlines

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Department of Workforce Services

Attn: Workforce Information
140 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Telephone: (801) 526-9786
Fax: (801) 526-9238
Email: wipublications@utah.gov

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